

Issue NE-CW2104, released May 24, 2004, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov). Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**Agricultural Summary:** For the week ending May 23, 2004, corn and soybean planting continued to make excellent progress, with corn near completion and soybean planting well ahead of last year, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Affects of the freezing temperatures of May 14 on wheat fields are not fully known but some damage is appearing in southwestern counties. Other producer activities included livestock care and other fieldwork activities.

**Weather Summary:** Temperatures averaged from 2 degrees below normals to 6 degrees above normals for the week. Precipitation was statewide with the eastern half receiving mostly over 1 inch to more than 4 inches in the northeast. The extent of damage from this past weekend’s severe weather in the southeast has not been determined.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:  
Nebraska, Week Ending May 23, 2004

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
<b>Topsoil</b>				
Very Short	17	15	1	9
Short	22	36	6	16
Adequate	56	47	87	67
Surplus	5	2	6	8
<b>Subsoil</b>				
Very Short	42	34	11	15
Short	26	39	34	26
Adequate	31	27	54	55
Surplus	1	0	1	4
<b>Days Suitable</b>	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.9

**Field Crops Report:** Corn planting was nearing completion with 98 percent planted, about one week ahead of last year at 87 and average at 93. Eighty-eight percent of the crop was emerged, ahead of last year at 47 and average at 63. Condition rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 31 fair, 54 good, and 11 excellent.

Soybean planting jumped to 70 percent complete, about a week ahead of last year at 38 and 4 days ahead of average at 55. Thirty-nine percent had emerged, ahead of last year at 9 and average at 22.

Sorghum planting advanced to 39 percent complete, ahead of last year at 14 and average at 33. Eleven percent had emerged, ahead of last year at 2 but the same as average.

Wheat condition declined and rated 17 percent very poor, 23 poor, 31 fair, 27 good, and 2 excellent, below last year

and average. Fields were 67 percent headed, a week and a half ahead of last year at 27 and average at 39. Fields had started to turn color in the Southwest and Southeast Districts.

Oat condition rated 7 percent very poor, 14 poor, 34 fair, 39 good, and 6 excellent. Eight percent of the oats had headed, ahead of last year at 2 and average at 1.

Dry bean planting was underway with 16 percent seeded, ahead of last year at 6 and average at 9.

Alfalfa conditions rated 6 percent very poor, 16 poor, 30 fair, 40 good, and 8 excellent, below last year and average. First cutting activities were 13 percent harvested, ahead of last year at 9 but the same as average. Insect pressure in alfalfa fields was growing. Wild hay condition rated 13 percent very poor, 13 poor, 34 fair, 37 good, and 3 excellent.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending May 23, 2004

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Alfalfa 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	13	4	9	13
Corn Planted	98	95	87	93
Corn Emerged	88	65	47	63
Soybeans Planted	70	51	38	55
Soybeans Emerged	39	14	9	22
Sorghum Planted	39	17	14	33
Sorghum Emerged	11	1	2	11
Wheat Headed	67	38	27	39
Wheat Turning Color	4	0	0	1

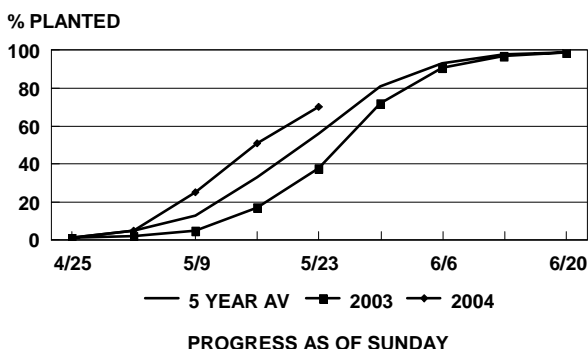
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 23, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Alfalfa	6	16	30	40	8
Corn	1	3	31	54	11
Oats	7	14	34	39	6
Wheat	17	23	31	27	2

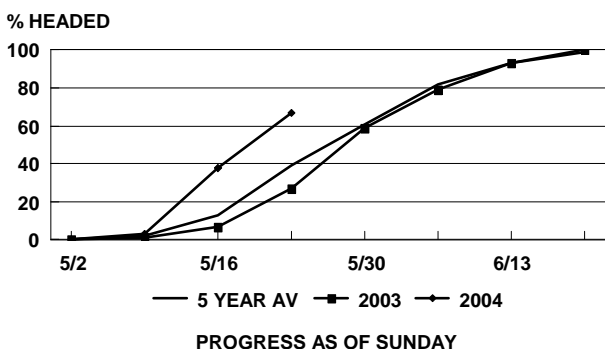
**Livestock, Pasture and Range Report:** Pasture and range condition rated 19 percent very poor, 21 poor, 31 fair, 27 good and 2 excellent, below a year ago and average. Grass growth remains a concern for western producers as cattle return to pastures.

*This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm)*

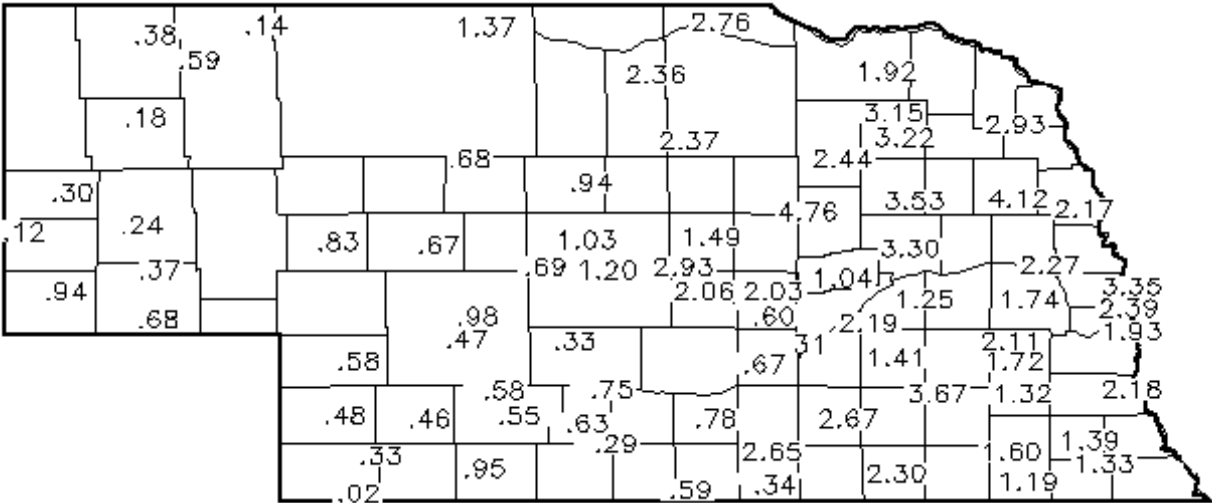
SOYBEANS



WHEAT



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending May 23, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - May 23, 2004

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.37	2.07	3.20	1.22	2.06	.46	1.32	1.93
Total since April 1	2.42	4.76	7.08	4.41	4.78	3.15	4.50	5.49
Normal since April 1	3.99	4.52	5.33	5.09	5.72	4.33	4.91	5.78
Total as % of normal	60%	105%	132%	87%	83%	72%	92%	95%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, May 23, 2004

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	83	38	57	-1
	Scottsbluff	84	37	60	+2
	Sidney	84	43	59	+1
NC	Ainsworth	83	43	61	0
	Arthur	83	42	59	-1
	O'Neill	79	45	61	-1
NE	Concord	83	46	61	-2
	Elgin	82	46	61	-1
	West Point	84	50	64	0
C	Grand Island	88	52	66	+3
	Lexington	90	51	65	+3
	Ord	85	45	63	0
EC	Lincoln	87	55	69	+4
	Central City	89	52	66	+3
	Mead	88	55	70	+5
SW	Champion	86	41	64	+3
	North Platte	88	46	64	+3
	Curtis	88	47	65	+4
SC	Arapahoe	85	41	60	0
	Minden	90	52	66	+3
	Red Cloud	88	54	69	+6
SE	Beatrice	86	57	71	+6
	Clay Center	87	53	67	+4
	Nemaha	88	58	72	+6

Source: High Plains Climate Center.